

KINGSBRIDGE ASTIR AT NAVY SEIZURE

News Bewilders Tenants of 13
Apartments to Be Taken for
Waves and Spars Trainees

A FEW SEEK NEW HOMES

Many Merchants in the Near-
By Shopping Center Mourn
Move, but None Complains

The daily routine of the Kingsbridge Road section of the Bronx was somewhat disrupted yesterday. This is the area affected by the government decision to take over thirteen apartment buildings for quarters for Waves and Spars candidates to be trained in nearby Hunter College. Tenants in five of the buildings who must find new homes by Jan. 31 were completely bewildered. The remainder of the 613 families affected have until Feb. 20 to relocate.

Following an order Tuesday by Federal Judge John W. Clancy to make the apartment houses available for the quartering of upward of 5,000 trainees, Rear Admiral E. J. Marquart announced that letters would be sent to tenants telling them they must move. Landlords, superintendents and tenants, who learned of the order from newspapers, had not received official notice yesterday.

While many awaited official word, the more practical housewives were busy searching the neighborhood for rooms. The majority reported no success.

Meanwhile, the Department of Housing and Building and the Mayor's Committee on Property Improvement announced that a vacancy listing bureau would open today in 2761 University Avenue, one of the buildings which are to be taken over, to help tenants find new quarters. Joseph Platzker, who will be in charge of the office, said his organization had listed within the last few days about 1,900 vacant apartments within a two-mile area of the buildings taken by the Navy.

School Is a Feature

Most of the tenants like the neighborhood because it is a quiet residential section with a playground and park overlooking Reservoir Oval. Nine-tenths of them said they had moved to the neighborhood because it was near Public School 86, 195th Street and Reservoir Avenue. It was estimated that several hundred children living in affected buildings attend this school.

Real estate agents were busy as bees. They canvassed the buildings to notify tenants of vacancies in their houses. Many of the women voiced fear of moving into another building in the section because of the possibility of the Navy taking that house too. It was also pointed out that rents where they were now located were very reasonable.

Most of the seized buildings are about sixteen years old and in excellent condition. However, the trainees who move into 2766 University Avenue will occupy the last house built in the Bronx. It was opened in June, 1942.

Merchants, too, were fearful that many of the tenants would move from the neighborhood. Max Steubens of 85 Strong Street, one of the buildings affected, who runs a self-service market at 63 West Kingsbridge Road, said that 90 per cent of his business came from the thirteen buildings, but added, "I'm more than willing to do my share toward the war effort."

While other merchants on Kingsbridge Road, the nearest shopping center, all claimed their businesses would suffer, none complained.



Captain William F. Amsden of the Navy, who will direct the women recruits at the Hunter College branch, is shown here with his Wave secretary, Miss Ruth Beffre, yeoman third class. Associated Press